

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020487
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EA-12
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DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 020487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING JAN. 25, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING, JANUARY 25, 1978:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON A SOVIET STATEMENT THAT
THERE ARE FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISERS NOW IN MOGADISCIO?

A: I DON'T. I HAD NO REACTION TO IT AND, IN FACT, CAN
ONLY SAY THAT THAT'S BEEN SEEN; BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY
REACTION TO IT.

Q: ON THE MEETING TODAY BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
AND THE AMBASSADOR FROM SOMALIA, WHO ASKED FOR THAT
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MEETING?

A: I HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: YES. RETURNING TO THAT SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA CONFLICT
THERE, I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
THURSDAY THAT THE SOVIETS AND CHINA MAY BE EMBARKING IN A

WAR HERE IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT START IMMEDIATELY.

NOW, MY QUESTION IS: IS THERE ANY INDICATION OR ANY REPORT YOU HAVE THAT A NEGOTIATION IS NOW GOING TO GET UNDER WAY?

AND ANOTHER QUESTION IS: IS THERE ANY SIGN THAT CHINA IS SUPPORTING SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA MILITARILY?

A: THERE ARE NO SIGNS AT THIS POINT.

Q: IT IS REPORTED THAT IN RHODESIA, PRIME MINISTER SMITH IS PREPARING TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS. TWO QUESTIONS ON THIS: ONE, IS THE UNITED STATES INFORMED OF THAT? AND WHAT DOES THAT DO, IF ANYTHING, TO ITS OWN PROPOSALS? AND, SECONDLY, IS THE UNITED STATES SUPPLYING ANY AID, IN ANY FORM, TO THE NATIONALIST LEADERS INSIDE RHODESIA?

A: LET ME TAKE THE LAST QUESTION BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND IT, MURREY. "AID IN ANY FORM," WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? AND "NATIONALIST LEADERS," ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA?

Q: YES. IS THE UNITED STATES SUPPLYING ANY FUNDS?

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A: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY.

Q: COULD WE HAVE THE QUESTION RAISED?

A: YES. BUT AGAIN I MEAN TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE WE ARE NOT. BUT I WILL CERTAINLY RAISE IT.

Q: I ALSO DID WANT TO EXPLORE IN RELATION TO THAT WHAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THE DEGREE OF THE UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP TO THESE NATIONALIST LEADERS?

A: I THINK YOU HAVE SEEN A GOOD BIT OF IT IN THAT THEY HAVE TALKED WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVES HERE IN WASHINGTON AND WE WITH THEIRS, ALSO IN THE FIELD AND THOSE TALKS HAVE CONTINUED. BUT I AM NOT SURE OF THE DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP.

Q: WELL, WHAT I AM TRYING TO DETERMINE IS IF THERE SHOULD

BE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN WHICH THEY HAVE JOINED, I AM TRYING TO GET SOME GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN RECENTLY IN DEALING WITH THESE

LEADERS.

A: WHETHER THEY HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP?

Q: WHETHER IT WILL LEAVE THE UNITED STATES POLARIZED OR NOT?

A: NO.

WE THINK WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH MOST OF THE PARTIES THAT ARE INVOLVED AND WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO STAY ABREAST OF THEIR THINKING.

Q: ON THE BASIC QUESTION.
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A: NOW, ON THE BASIC QUESTION THE ONLY REPORTS WE HAVE OUT OF RHODESIA AT THIS POINT ARE PRECISELY THE ONES THAT YOU HAVE, WHICH ARE PRESS REPORTS OF SOME PENDING ANNOUNCEMENT.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS, FRANKLY, BEYOND THAT OF WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON IN SALISBURY AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT UNTIL WE DO.

WHATEVER THE DETAILS ARE AMBASSADOR YOUNG DOES INTEND TO TRAVEL TO MALTA WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN TO DISCUSS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS THE PROVISIONS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OUR SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS OFFER A FAIR AND COMPREHENSIVE MEANS OF MOVING RHODESIA TO MAJORITY RULE.

I MIGHT ADD PARENTHETICALLY THAT THE INTERNAL NATIONALIST LEADERS WHO ARE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RATHER REPEATEDLY NOTED THAT THEY ARE USING THE BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN IDEAS FOR THEIR TRANSITION IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

BUT I THINK WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE TERMS ARE.

Q: HODDING, ON SOUTH AFRICA, SENATOR DICK CLARK HAS CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE THAT CANNOT BE DEFENDED.

WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO THAT?
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HE SAYS YOUR NON-COMMITTAL ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW INVESTMENT
IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A: I HAVE NO REACTION TO THAT.

Q: HODDING, ON THAT SAME QUESTION.

A: IT IS STILL UNDER WAY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

Q: WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE REVIEW IS COMPLETED, IN
FACT.

A: YES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY TARGET DATE FOR ITS COMPLETION?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON IT.

Q: HODDING, BACK ON RHODESIA, YOU SAY THAT WE HAVE TO
WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE TERMS ARE.

A: BEFORE I'M GOING TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER ON THE TERMS,
ON WHAT'S BEEN DONE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU MIGHT FIND
THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TO BE REASONABLE?

A: LOOK, I'M NOT GOING TO PROJECT WHAT WE FIND
REASONABLE UNTIL I SEE WHAT THE TERMS ARE.

Q: -- A QUESTION. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ALSO HAS REQUESTED
AN INVESTIGATION WITH REGARDS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
HE WANTS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE ARREST
OF A VOA CORRESPONDENT IN SOWETO EARLIER THIS WEEK.

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A: WE, AS I THINK YOU KNOW, REGISTERED A PROTEST TO
THAT. IF YOU DON'T KNOW, WE DID.

INSOFAR AS AN INVESTIGATION, WE HAVE GOTTEN A FULL REPORT
FROM THAT CORRESPONDENT ON THAT. HE WAS IN THE COMPANY
OF SEVERAL OTHER REPORTERS -- I THINK AS MANY AS FIVE OR
SIX --

Q: THERE WERE ABOUT EIGHT OF THEM.

A: -- WHO WERE DETAINED BRIEFLY WHEN THEY WERE IN SOWETO,
SOME NOT SO BRIEFLY -- WHO HAPPENED TO BE TWO NATIONALS,
TWO SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALS.

WE ARE GETTING THAT REPORT. AND BEYOND THE PROTEST WE'VE

ALREADY REGISTERED ON THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH FOR
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PAGE 01 STATE 020487
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:VGRAY

APPROVED BY: EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY

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R 302255Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0000

UNCLAS STATE 020487

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS BONN PARIS
LONDON FROM SECSTATE DTD 25 JAN 1978 QTE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
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SAS ID: 3714463
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AF POSTS BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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